

**TEST INTELLIGENCE,
BY THE MAIL.**

WASHINGTON, May 17, 1846.

Nothing further from Gen. Taylor's camp, or Point Isabel, came to hand by the Southern of this evening. The confirmation of Capt. Ker's defeat, and the loss of seventy of his men, appeared in the New Orleans papers. My actions, a week ago, of the capture of the two ships, I fear will be realized, if reinforcements to New Orleans and other places to the South can reach Gen. Taylor in time for his relief.

Among the movements which it is contemplated to make early in the ensuing week, there is one, so far as I have been informed, will meet with, if not quite, the unanimous concurrence

parties. I allude to the plan embraced in resolution offered by Mr. Jarnagin, the whig senator from Tennessee, a few days since, proposing for the organization of a board of commissioners to examine and report upon the claims of citizens of the United States against the government of Mexico. This resolution I sent you in which you published. The resolution makes it the duty of the board, not only to report the amount of those claims in detail, but also to furnish a succinct statement of the circumstances in which they originated.

This subject, not only the nation at large, but congress, and even the Executive, require correct and full information. Notwithstanding so much has been said upon the subject, not only by congress, but by the details. Even the amount of the claims is variously estimated from three or four to ten millions of dollars. Whoever will take the trouble to examine the closets in the census office of the State department, where those papers, and which were used by me when I was here, can be seen, will find that

One of the best informed men upon the subject has recently declared, that should such investigation and report be made, the nation he would would be astonished, not only at amount of pecuniary loss which our citizens sustained, but still more at the development of the atrocities of the crimes which have penetrated in the party in which they originated. Understanding the manner in which these relations have been spoken of under various executive administrations, and during so many years, many really are and more affect to be ludicrous when they charge the administration to represent them as fictitious or grossly exaggerated. This is doubtless the case with some, cannot be reasonably supposed that it is so a large proportion of them.

It has been understood that some leading members satisfied themselves by personal examination of the charges, but have indicated their opinion that no further examination is necessary, and the claims have been exhibited for years in the State department, with the accompanying

ance; that Mexico has had ample opportunities of knowing all the allegations that have been made, and the proofs adduced to substantiate them; that she has fraudulently evaded trial before a board, in which she was duly represented, has been detected in laying out that board forged documents to disprove her claims, and has actually perjured testimony and laid before the board. Under these circumstances, the gentleman argues that it is the fault of Mexico alone, if any one is fabricated or exaggerated—that she has red judgment to go against her, by default, and has no right to complain of the government, and that the United States should now assume that the claims are precisely in amount and character as the parties have represented them, and assist upon the full payment according to the estimate.

When, in addition to the facts above suggested, we remembered that the position of the two nations interposes an insuperable difficulty in obtaining such testimony from Mexico, the sense of our utter inability to extricate ourselves

would not be fairly deemed harsh or un-
favourable her. Many of the claimants, how-
ever, that as the validity and amount of
demands have been assailed by distinguish-
ed in high places, they have a right to insist
the truth of their statements shall be fairly
examined—that they shall be tested by the
dish rules of evidence, and adjudged
conformity with the principles of law.
mainly and honorable course has produced a
and favorable impression, and it is now be-
lieved that Mr. Jarnagin's resolution, which it
will be repeated by the Georgia Convention
on August 1st at an early day in the next
year, will encounter no opposition, should it be
ted; and in carrying it into execution,
resident should make a judicious selection of
to constitute the tribunal—not reckless parti-
san men of known integrity and capacity.
We can be well assured that this course will have a
powerful effect upon the public mind, and lead
to unanimous determination that as war has
commenced, no treaty shall be made which

not provide an indemnity to the last farthing all the wrongs which our injured citizens have suffered at the hands of the nation. Government is again talking of sending Mr. Shidell out as a commissioner to settle the Texas boundary line, in which, if he should prove successful, all other difficulties might be then settled. The way that we ought to act, is concentrating a sufficient force in Texas, so as to force an armistice for the purpose of making an effort for the permanent establishment of peace between both sides and the definitive arrangement of all ties. Mexico, I am sure, would be willing to rely in an arrangement of this kind, and so that the United States would be better for entering it now than enter upon any reasonable war with each other, in which thousands of lives and millions of property would be lost.

Any was private bill day in the House of Representatives. Very little business was done in consequence of a motion made by the Committee on Foreign Relations to incorporate sundry amendments.

on a bill for the relief of Commodore Jones; and mentioning authorising the Secretary of State to settle the claims of B. F. Green, late Secretary of Legation to Mexico, and Wm. B. Blackford, Secretary of Legation to Venezuela, who were essentially lay claimants of the same speculative sort. The bill was then ordered to be read, the Secretary of State ordering that, whatever sums might be added to be due to them by the Secretary of State, be paid, &c., which amendment was rejected by Mr. Houston of Alabama, and others, on ground that it went to establish, by precedent, the affairs of the government are of a patriotic order; that the blood, in the veins of the people, and of a deeper tinge, than that which circulates in the sluggish veins of private citizens, the claims must be decided by Congress alone. An attempt of the Committee of Foreign Relations to establish a privileged order of claims was rejected in the Committee. Mr. Pickens, by a portion of its members refusing to vote, has thus prolonged the principle that has been before asserted that we have no patriotic or privileged class of claimants.

But Scott, I understand, will not leave for the north until he has everything for his army in complete order. He is determined not to be misled by the government when on the field of battle. Men, money, and munitions of war must all be in abundance, before he starts. This is what he intends to fight his way to the White House in 1848. A victory then depends altogether on a victory over the "perfidious Mexicans."

ARIEL.

WASHINGTON, Saturday night,
May 16th, 1846.

Enthusiastic Meeting for the Enrolling of Volunteers for Mexico—Speeches by Lieut. W. D. Porter, Hon. Barclay Smith, Col. R. M. Johnson, A. F. G. McConnell, Hon. Mr. Stanton, Mr. John, and Dr. Brownough.

At six o'clock this afternoon, a large concourse of citizens assembled in the City Hall, for the purpose of discussing our Mexican relations, and

rolling volunteers for the "existing war."

J. W. Bronaugh, of Mo., was called to the aid, and a gentleman, whose name has escaped appointed secretary.

The chairman stated the object of the meeting, briefly exhorted his fellow citizens upon the importance of defending the State against the invasion of the Confederates.

At W. D. Porter, U. S. N., was introduced. This gentleman son of the late Commodore Porter, and a son of the gallant officer recently slain in Texas. He stepped up the appeal of the President, and in a few words of voice, which he could not restrain his distinctness. He said he had a young friend and an old shrieve, William Brien, at his side, who was ready, again, to go to his country, as he had gone before. He then drew a card from his pocket and had found him a gallant fellow, and now he was ready to try his hand upon the land. Porter was received in high favor by the meeting.

N. BACCHUS, LAWYER of Tenn., called to the aid. He said, "the big fellow" was next called out. He said he came up to hear the hero of San Jacinto and Gen. Smith, (both had gone on) to Baltimore, we understand to meet their fate. But he said he was not a soldier, but he would fight or fight, he could fight his powder dry. Mr.

Then, detailed the whole history of our situation in Mexico, dwelt upon her perdition policy, explained the process of annexation, the causes of the late war, Congress, and denounced the "fourteen" who had signed against the bill for 50,000 volunteers. He exhorted us to do so could go when their country called and required assistance to obey the summons; and altogether, he made a speech upon the patriotism of the people. Before he had done speaking, the crowd had so increased, that the hall occupied in the hall was not large enough for the mass, and amidst repeated cries of "come, outside," the details of the meeting